

and operates 24 housing facilities for seniors in the metropolitan Detroit area. American House strives to be the most outstanding affordable senior housing organization in the State of Michigan, and to provide all seniors, regardless of their income, with quality services and care. The organization is founded on the principle that individuals are entitled to living with dignity and with freedom as they enjoy the later years of their lives.

Recently, I have had the privilege of working with Mr. Gillette on an issue that is of utmost importance to the seniors of Michigan—affordable senior housing. At certain American House locations, a program has been developed which utilizes two assistance programs available to seniors. A Michigan State Housing Development Authority tax credit provides qualified applicants with a tax credit and rent subsidies, based on income limitations. In addition, the federally funded Medicaid Waiver Program, which has been in effect since the early 1990's assists qualified applicants in paying for housework, meals, and personalized care services in a home environment.

Mr. President, taking advantage of these two government subsidy programs has the potential to narrow the gap in housing prospects that exists between low, middle, and high-income seniors. It will provide many seniors, who otherwise would be forced to move into publicly-funded nursing homes, with the ability to remain in assisted living programs like that which American House offers. It is a wonderful program with enormous potential.

Combining these programs to assist seniors was the idea of Bob Gillette. This is the kind of work that he does every day. He is always thinking about how to make the lives of people around him better. His enthusiasm for his job and his genuine interest in the people around him make others want to help him.

Anyone who knows Bob will tell you that he is a wonderful person. I consider it a privilege to have him as a friend. He is truly a remarkable man. On behalf of the entire United States Senate, I wish Bob Gillette a happy 60th birthday, and best of luck in the future.●

TRIBUTE TO THE TELEPHONE PIONEERS OF AMERICA

● Mr. L. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to pay tribute to the Telephone Pioneers of America. This tremendous volunteer organization has provided 40 years of volunteer labor service to the repair of talking-book machines for the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped of the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. Since 1960, the Pioneers have provided over \$70 million worth of volunteer labor and have repaired nearly 2 million machines. More than a half-million blind and physically disabled individuals

benefit from this outstanding volunteer repair service. In Rhode Island alone, Pioneers have volunteered 27,186 hours and repaired 17,146 machines since 1986.

The Pioneers are a good-will organization of a million people. This international organization is led by President Irene Chavira of U.S. West, Senior Vice President, Harold Burlingame of AT&T, and Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer James Gadd of Bell South. The organization is further supported by countless special people who make up the association, headquarters advisory board, and sponsoring companies.

Concerning the talking-book program itself, there are 1,500 Pioneer men and women who work on talking-book repair. They consist of volunteer personnel from AT&T, Bell Atlantic, Bell South, Lucent Technologies, Southwestern Bell Corporation, SBC, Communications, Inc., and U.S. West. They are ably supported by their Pioneer Vice Presidents and are also ably assisted by regional coordinators.

Through the generosity of the sponsoring companies, talking-book repair Pioneers are provided facilities in which they repair the equipment. Further, they are provided funding for tools, while the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped provides testing equipment and parts for necessary repairs. The Pioneer organization also ensures talking-book coordinator leadership, including administrative support, management support for the program, and funding for travel to training and for recognition events.

The talking-book machines provided by the National Library Services to blind and visually impaired Americans are nothing less than a lifeline. Profound vision loss and blindness can seem like an insurmountable obstacle to what most of us take for granted, reading. We live in the information age, but for blind and visually impaired individuals, most information would be out of reach if it were not for the availability of specially designed talking-book machines. With talking-book machines, and other forms of assistive technology, blind boys and girls, men and women are reading for pleasure, for academic achievement, and for professional advancement.

Volunteerism is one of the greatest of all American virtues, and most who given their time for the benefit of others, do so without hope of fanfare. The Telephone Pioneers of America truly have sounded a clarion call for all other volunteer organizations to follow by responding to those in need, and I commend them for it.●

DEATH OF JEFF MACNELLY

● Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. President, readers of the Chicago Tribune and newspapers across America suffered a great loss last Thursday when legendary political cartoonist Jeff

MacNelly lost his battle with lymphoma. He was 52.

Jeff MacNelly was one of the giants of modern political commentary. In this era of multi-media communication, round-the-clock news, and ubiquitous political punditry, Jeff offered a fresh and witty perspective on local and national affairs.

It has been said that a picture is worth a thousand words. But Jeff MacNelly was a master, and his were worth more. No matter what the issue, no matter who the subject of his praise of caustic criticism, Jeff had a way of making his point and making you laugh at the same time. That was his gift.

Born in New York City in 1947, Jeff MacNelly knew he was meant to draw. He left college during his senior year in 1969 to pursue a career as a political cartoonist, and accepted a job with a weekly newspaper in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Jeff won his first Pulitzer Prize in 1972 at age 24, and two more followed in 1978 and 1985. His legendary comic strip "Shoe," which he continued for the rest of his life, was born in 1977. By the time Jeff passed away last week, "Shoe" was syndicated in over 1,000 publications nationwide. Jeff briefly decided to retire his pen in 1981, but, missing the excitement of politics and the daily news business, was lured back into action in 1982 by the Chicago Tribune. He worked at the Tribune until his death.

For nearly 30 years, Jeff MacNelly entertained and informed us with his unique blend of humor and political insight. He died young, but left his mark—literally and figuratively—on the entire world.●

RECOGNITION OF MARK LAMPING

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Mark Lamping, President of the St. Louis Cardinals. Today, the St. Louis Catholic Youth Council presented its Annual Achievement Award for the year 2000 to Mr. Lamping. His tenure as head of the Cardinals has seen a 1996 Central Division championship, a return to post-season play for the first time since 1987, and a complete renovation of Busch Stadium. In 1999, his dedication as President enabled the Cardinals to receive the honor of Major League Baseball's Fan Friendly team by the United Sports Fans of America for the Cardinals' outstanding efforts at making the ballpark a more enjoyable, affordable, and memorable experience for the paying public.

In February of 1994, after serving for five years as Anheuser-Busch's group Director of Sports Marketing, Mr. Lamping was appointed Commissioner of the Continental Basketball Association. While in this position, Mr. Lamping managed the company's TV and radio sports marketing activities for all Anheuser-Busch beer brands, including sponsorship agreements with the Olympics, World Cup, the National

Hockey League, the National Football League, the National Basketball Association, and all other major professional sports.

Mr. Lamping's accomplishments are not limited to the realm of sports; he also gained experience in the corporate world. In 1981, Mr. Lamping joined the Anheuser-Busch family and began his work as a financial analyst within the company's corporate planning division. He then moved on to serve as the District Manager in Southern Illinois and Central Iowa. In addition to these responsibilities, Mr. Lamping served as the Senior Brand Manager for New Products and the Director of Sales Operations.

Mr. Lamping has also added a number of civic and charitable activities to his resume, including the St. Louis Sports Commission Board of Directors, the St. Louis University Business School Board of Directors, and the SSM Health Care Central Regional Board. He has served on the Board of Directors for the Roman Catholic Orphan Board, the Boone Valley Classic Foundation, the St. Louis Cardinals Community Fund, as well as Chairperson of the Make-A-Wish Foundation Golf Classic in 1997, 1998, and 1999, Chairman of the Old Newsboys Day for Children's Charities, and as the Chairperson for 1999 St. Louis papal visit.

In 1998, Mr. Lamping received the Man of the Year honor from the St. Louis Chapter of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Resources. That same year he received the James O'Flynn Award from St. Patrick's Center in recognition of his hard work to help fight homelessness in the St. Louis area. Also, Mr. Lamping was recently inducted into the Vianney High School Hall of Fame.

The holder of a bachelor's degree in accounting from Rockhurst College of Kansas City and a master's degree in business administration from St. Louis University, Mr. Lamping is husband to Cheryl and father to three children—Brian, Lauren, and Timothy.

St. Louis is lucky to count as a resident a man so dedicated to his native community. It is my honor and pleasure to congratulate Mr. Mark Lamping on his outstanding success as a Missouri citizen and as this year's recipient of the Catholic Youth Council's Annual Achievement Award. ●

BEST HARVEST BAKERY

● Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I rise to recognize a significant minority enterprise in my home state of Kansas. The venture is Best Harvest Bakery, and its founders are two highly capable and energetic African-American businessmen, Bob Beavers, Jr. and Ed Honesty. Best Harvest is supplying hamburger buns to 560 McDonald's restaurants throughout the Midwest and will supply a new type of soft roll to the U.S. military. As minority suppliers to McDonald's, Bob and Ed join a growing force that last year provided

over \$3 billion in goods and services to the system.

Bob and Ed got their start as McDonald's employees and rose through the ranks to senior positions. Bob started as crew and attained the rank of senior vice president and a position on McDonald's board of directors. Ed joined the company right out of law school and became managing counsel for the Great Lakes Region. Last year, the two left their secure positions to become independent entrepreneurs and suppliers to the company. Bob and Ed chose to locate in Kansas City, Kansas because, as they said, it is "the heart of the bread basket." I along with many others in my home state welcome them and Best Harvest's contribution to our thriving economy.

Mr. PRESIDENT, I ask that this article on Bob Beavers and Ed Honesty, published in the April 2000, issue of Franchise Times, be placed in the RECORD, and I encourage my colleagues to read the account of these two outstanding African-Americans and their evolving relationship with McDonald's, which has again demonstrated its commitment to diversity.

[From the Franchise Times, Apr. 2000]

FORMER EXECUTIVE SWITCH TO SUPPLY SIDE

(By Nancy Weingartner)

Robert M. Beavers Jr. Started as a part-time McDonald's worker earning \$1 an hour. At his girlfriend's suggestion, he took the job during his junior year at George Washington University, because it was close to where she lived. He became an intricate part of the franchisee's business and when it was sold, corporate asked him to come to Oak Brook. In his 36-year career with McDonald's, he climbed the ladder to a senior vice president position and was responsible for bringing hundreds of minority franchisees into the system. He was also the first African American on the hamburger giant's board of directors.

Edward Honesty Jr. joined McDonald's right out of law school. He worked his way up to managing counsel for the Great Lakes Region, helped start the Business Counsel Program and was a frequent attendee and speaker at the American Bar Association's Forum on Franchising and the International Franchise Association's Legal Symposium.

So why would two men who were at the top of their game decide to give up their expense accounts and their impressive titles to become suppliers?

In one word—entrepreneurship.

It was because of their contacts at McDonald's and the fact that they knew the system so well, they were able to put together a deal where everyone could rise to the top.

"We look at the McDonald's system as a three-legged stool," Beavers said. Each leg—corporate, franchisees and suppliers—are necessary in order to keep the stool on its feet. "No one has been all three," Beavers said. Until now.

Beavers is part of an investment group, including Berkshire Partners, that purchased Fresh Start Bakeries from the Campbell Soup Company in 1999. Fresh Start's 14 bakeries worldwide supply 24 percent of McDonald's restaurants in the U.S., 64 percent of the Latin America restaurants and 14 percent of those in Europe. Beavers will serve as a director of Fresh Start. In addition, Beavers and Honesty purchased a majority interest in the Kansas City bakery and formed a joint venture with Fresh Start. Honesty is

president and chief operating officer and Beavers is chairman and CEO.

They chose buns because it's a core product that McDonald's uses in large quantities, and the Kansas City location because it's in "the heart of the bread basket" and close to the McDonald's restaurants they supply.

While McDonald's is their largest customer, they don't have a written contract. All arrangements with suppliers at McDonald's are by a handshake, Beavers said. That's the way Ray Kroc started doing business in 1955 and the way the company still does it, he said. "We (suppliers) have to do our part, they (corporate) have to do their part. It makes for a powerful relationship," he said.

Structuring the deal with a handshake has served McDonald's well, Beavers said, and "that's the spirit (in which) I want to grow our business."

LEAVING CORPORATE

Part of the reason Honesty was able to join Beavers in the endeavor with a minimum amount of trepidation was that they were able to get McDonald's "blessing" before leaping. Both knew that being a supplier to McDonald's was a win-win deal.

Honesty had put together a blue binder with his mission statement, attributes and financials and took it to McDonald's purchasing department a couple of years before the Fresh Start deal materialized. He let it be known, he said, that he was interested in becoming a supplier for McDonald's.

Meanwhile, Beavers was also looking for a change of pace. When he heard about the bakery opportunity, he spoke to the head of McDonald's, Jack Greenberg, who Beavers said thought it was a great opportunity.

It was a great opportunity for Honesty also, who invested his life's savings and stock options in his quest for the entrepreneurial life. He moved his family, a son, 15, and a daughter, 11, from the Chicago area to Kansas City, necessitating his wife to give up her prestigious job as a medical director for Advocate Health Care.

Was he nervous? "I didn't dwell on the nervousness or the 'what ifs,'" he said. "I hope to remain nervous forever, I don't want to get complacent; I need to maximize my potential. I'm just where I want to be—slightly over my head," he said.

Because of their positive experiences with McDonald's both men knew they wanted to remain in the family. Their training at McDonald's, including sweeping the floors and learning how to make a hamburger, prepared them to build their company based on McDonald's winning recipe.

Beavers' experience on the board for 19 years gave him a "good understanding of how a public company is run and great insight into developing a brand."

Honesty's dealing with the legal side of the business taught him about fairness and how to settle problems at the business table rather than in court. In business, he said, you're in it for the long haul, and the ones you meet on the way up are the same ones you'll meet on the way down," he contends.

While McDonald's will always be their No. 1 customer—"Always dance with the one who brought you," Honesty quips—Great Harvest has room in its production schedule to develop other business. One contract they've won is with the U.S. military to develop a soft roll that can be used as rations during the military's war games. "It's an exotic, tough bun to make," Honesty said, but could prove to be a lucrative one now that they've got the military specs down pat. They're also looking into doing private labeling for supermarkets, Beavers said.

One thing the pair wants to ensure down the road is that the bakery remains a minority venture, Honesty said. Beavers welcomes